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PATENT

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Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace paragraph 0040 with the following replacement paragraph:

[0040] An embodiment of the invention utilizes an intermediate language representation having a graph structure composed of nodes identifying functional operations in a query. As such, it represents the semantic meaning of a query. This intermediate language is a query intermediate language and is termed QIL. An example query intermediate language definition is provided in a co-filed patent application entitled QUERY INTERMEDIATE LANGUAGE METHOD AND SYSTEM assigned to Microsoft Corporation of Redmond, WA (Serial No. 10/601,444, filed on June 23, 2003). The contents of that co-filed application are considered to be incorporated in its entirety by reference into this application.